

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JULY 7, 2015

Celebrating MLK Community Hospital Success and Looking Ahead to Phase II

On July 1, 2015, the nonprofit Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital received official approval from The Joint Commission, clearing the final hurdle to restore quality hospital services at the MLK Medical Campus. The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest standard-setting body, evaluates and accredits more than 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States. After three days of on-site, rigorous inspections, it concluded that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital met standards for safety and quality of care, infection control, surgical services, medical record keeping, pharmaceutical services and cleanliness of its physical environment. The Joint Commission's accreditation marks the beginning of a new era in hospital health care delivery on the MLK Medical Campus. It culminates years of determined efforts by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Moreover, this milestone would not have been possible without the outstanding work of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital staff, the hospital's Board of Directors and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. It enables the 131-bed community hospital, including the emergency room and intensive care unit, to gradually begin opening its doors for service. Today, the emergency room will open - to walk-in patients.

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MOTION

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It is critical that the County of Los Angeles continues to play an active supporting and collaborative role to ensure the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital successfully provides state-of-the-art, compassionate, timely and quality care for the residents it serves. It is also critical that the County, policy makers and other stakeholders obtain the data to inform whether additional investment in in-patient services and facilities are required to meet the needs of the surrounding community and service area.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services to work with the leadership of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital to develop and report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing, on a quarterly basis, a dashboard that assesses the new hospital's patient workload. That dashboard should include information on:

- A. Emergency room volume, diversion rates, cycle times, and boarding times (the time from when a physician writes the order to admit the patient until the patient is placed in an inpatient bed);
- B. Emergency room diagnoses, including extent to which patients present with primary mental health and primary substance abuse problems;
- C. Emergency room disposition, including the disposition to a mental health urgent care center, a psychiatric emergency room or trauma center;
- D. Residence of patients by ZIP code;
- E. Insurance status of patients at the time of entrance into the Emergency Department or admission to the hospital; and
- F. Hospital occupancy rates and average lengths of stay.

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